

during Thursday in discharging the work of a peacemaker. His efforts were not unsuccessful, for he found that members of the late staff were ready to sacrifice their personal feelings to save the Medical School from ruin following upon the disorganization which has already been wrought in it. All possibility of compromise, however, was effectually defeated by the conduct of the Government. With a precipitancy in extraordinary contrast to the procrastination which marked their action in some of the earlier stages of the controversy they rushed forward the business of appointing the medical officers selected in London. In hot haste the Board of Management was summoned to do their part in the transaction. Meeting *in camera*—a procedure which had it been adopted by the late Board would have been denounced in unmeasured terms as an unworthy device for depriving the public of information to which it was entitled—they agreed to a recommendation. That recommendation must have been instantly transmitted to the Premier and forthwith adopted, for within three hours of the time at which the Board met the official notifications of the appointments were on their way to London. This accomplished, the Premier, quite gratuitously as it would seem, dispatched a note to Mr. Copley, whose offers of mediation he had rejected, announcing that the arrangements referred to in his letter of 2nd inst. were complete, and that the matter was, therefore, at an end so far as the old Honorary Medical Staff were concerned.

And this, we take it, closes the chapter. The Premier is content that the present unsatisfactory arrangements at the Hospital shall continue until the hazardous experiment which is to be tried when the new medical officers arrive is in operation. It would have been easy for him to have enlisted the services of the members of the late staff to have tided over the present emergency, but their courteous offer of help was first treated with contemptuous silence and ultimately

declined. He might, had he shown any reasonable disposition to act towards them in a conciliatory and gracious spirit, have, even at the eleventh hour, secured their co-operation; but his action, instead of tending towards healing the breach, has been in the direction of widening it. It is a lamentable fact that the leading medical men of the colony, although willing and anxious to continue to give to the patients in the Hospital the

benefit of their skill and experience, are debarred from doing so, and all because the Premier has laid himself out to behave towards them as if, instead of being influenced by a philanthropic desire to serve the cause of humanity, they were animated by the most sordid and selfish motives. With regard to the officers who are to succeed them we prefer to say little. The new Resident Surgeon has a good record, although the controversy which raged over him in the columns of the medical journals in 1894 might well have received more attention than seems to have been given to it by the Hospital Board. The new Resident Physician is a gentleman of whom so little is known here that the Board recommended him without even being acquainted with his Christian names. It is to be assumed that both officers have high qualifications, but the task they are being asked to undertake will inevitably be beyond their powers, unless the experience of the past as to the cases requiring treatment in the Hospital is contradicted by that of the future. Meanwhile the question of what is to become of the Medical School is one of pressing importance. The subject is to be discussed by joint committees of the Hospital Board and of the University, and we sincerely hope that some *modus vivendi* may be discovered, but the prospect of this, it must be confessed, is the reverse of encouraging.

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ADELAIDE: SATURDAY, MAY 16, 1896.

THE MEDICAL SCHOOL AND THE HOSPITAL

A final effort is being made to save the Medical School from extinction. Since the enforced retirement from the Hospital of the Honorary Staff of Physicians and Surgeons lectures have been delivered and clinical instruction given as opportunity offered, but the continuity and thoroughness of the teaching have been sadly interfered with. Not a few of the students, particularly amongst those who have reached the more advanced courses, recognise that they are not acquiring the knowledge and practice necessary to enable them to pass the examinations with credit, and are naturally disheartened at the prospect before them. How best to put an end